

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 IO-13 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /088 W

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R 271904Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3313

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1718

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, GY

SUBJECT: UNION PRESIDENT CALLS GOG'S SOCIALIST BLUFF

SUMMARY: THE PRESIDENT OF THE RELATIVELY OPOWERFUL ANDINDEPENDENT CLERICAL AND COMMRCIAL WORKER'S UNION (CCWU) HAS CALLED ON THE GOG T LIVE UP TO ITS SELF-MADE SOCIALIST REPUTATION IN DEALING WITH THE DEMANDS OF THE NATION'S WORKERS. WHILE COMPLIMENTING THE GOG FOR ITS EFFORTS SO FAR TOMORE EQUALLY DISTRIBUTE THE NATION'S WEALTH, THE LABOR LEADER CRITICIZED IT FOR NOT RESPONDING QUICKLY AND THOROUGHLY ENOUGH TO WORKERS' DEMANDS. HE WARNED THE GOG THAT THE TRADE UNIONS WOULD CONTINUE TO DEFEND WORKERS' RIGHTS AGAINST ENCROACHMENT, INCLDING ANY FROM THE GOVT. END SUMMARY.

1. IN WHAT FOR THIS COUNTRY IS ANINCREASINGLY RARE OCCURRENCE, A LEADER OF A MAJOR NATINAL TMDE UNION, NOT ALIGNED TO THE OPPOSITION PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PPP), HAS OPENLY CIR- TICIZED THE POLICIES AND PERFORMANCE OF THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL CONGRESS (PNC) GOVT.

2. OUTSPOKEN PRESIDENT OF THE WELL-ORGANIZED AND INFLUENTIAL CCWU, GORDON TODD, IN WHAT AMOUNTS TO HIS OWN BRAND OF "CRITICAL SUPPORT", PRAISED THE GOG FOR ITS PROGRESSIVE POLICIES TOARDS WORKERS,
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BUT CRITICIZED IT FOR NOT GOING FAR ENOUGH IN THIS REGARD.

3. SPEAKING AT HIS UNION'S ANNUAL DELEGATES' CONFERENCE LAST WEEKEND, THE LABOR LEADER MADE IT OBVIOUS THAT SINCE THE RULING PNC BEGAN IMPLEMENTING SOME OF ITS SOCIALIST POLICIES (SUCH AS NATIONALIZATION), WORKERS' EXPECTATIONS HAVE RISEN MUCH FASTER THAN THE GOG'S CAPACITY (OR WILLINGNESS) TO ADEQUATELY SATISFY THEM. TODD FURTHER CHARGED THE GOG WITH THE "UNSOCIALISTIC" PRACTICE OF OBSTRUCTING TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES.

4. HIS FINAL REMARKS CALLED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MORE WORKER-ORIENTED POLICIES BY THE GOG AND OF A MORE TRULY NON-ALIGNED POSITION BY THE NATION'S TRADE UNIONS. REGARDING THE LATTER, HE DECLARED THAT, "WE MUST MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN OUR CONTACTS WITH WORKING CLASS MOVEMENTS IN THE WEST WHILE TRYING WITHOUT UNDUE HASTE TO INITIATE CONTACTS WITH BONA FIDE TRADE UNIONS IN THE EAST".

5. COMMENT: TODD, WHO WILL BE A STRONG CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF THE GUYANA TRADE UNION CONGRESS IN SEPTEMBER, IS ONE OF THE FEW TRULY INDEPENDENT TRADE UNIONISTS LEFT IN GUYANA. HIS ADDRESS, WHICH OF COURSE RECEIVED LITTLE COVERAGE FROM THE GOG-CONTROLLED MEDIA, WAS ESPECIALLY EFFECTIVE BECAUSE IT DEALT WITH OBVIOUS, SPECIFIC FAILURES OF THE GOG RATHER THAN WITH QUESTIONS OF IDEOLOGY. IT IS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO US AS A DEMONSTRATION THAT WESTERN TRADE UNION IDEALS WHICH US LABOR ORGANIZATIONS HAVE WORKED SO HARD TO STRENGTHEN HERE ARE STILL ALIVE AND, WITH OUT CONTINUED ENCOURAGEMENT AND ASSISTANCE, PRESERVABLE, DESPITE DEBILITATING DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURES
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